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APULEIUS *METAMORPHOSES* II. 29

In the course of Thelyphron's story the narrator describes the return to life of a corpse: ". . . cuncta curiosis oculis arbitrabar, iam tumore pectus extolli, iam salubris vena pulsari, iam spiritu corpus impleri" (p. 48. 25 Helm). The commentators offer no parallels to the phrase *salubris vena*, but Oudendorp explains it as "'arteria,' quod eius pulsu totius corporis *salubris* vel *insalubris* dispositio exploretur." Elsewhere (x. 2=p. 237. 25 H.) Apuleius is content to say: "heu medicorum ignarae mentes, quid *venae pulsus*, quid coloris intemperantia," etc. To anybody who is familiar with the author's excessive fondness for symmetry it will seem strange that a rather obvious correction has not, so far as I can discover, been suggested. Should not the passage read: "iam tumore pectus extolli, iam *salebris*¹ vena pulsari, iam spiritu corpus impleri"? For *salebra* in Apuleius, cf. *Metam.* i. 26 ("incerta verborum *salebra* balbutire," p. 24. 11 H.), *Flor.* 21 ("salebras orbitarum," p. 42.4 H.). For the phrase *salebris vena pulsari* cf. Ovid, *Metam.* x. 289 (the story of Pygmalion's animated statue): "corpus erat! *saliunt* temptatae pollice *venae*."

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¹ *Salebris* > *salabris* > *salubris* may indicate the process of corruption; cf. Helm's edition of the *Florida*, praefatio, p. xliii. The infinitives are interpreted by Helm as "historical"; earlier editors indicate this more clearly by printing a period after *arbitrabar*.